

Major Face-lift to Hal Rogers Parkway Now Complete

December 20th was a milestone for many Leslie Countians, as they and Governor Ernie Fletcher, Secretary Bill Nighbert along with other state and local dignitaries gathered at the Leslie County Maintenance Facility to celebrate the completion of a rehabilitation project on a 12-mile section of the Hal Rogers Parkway.

This \$6.59 million rehabilitation project began at mile point 39 and ran through the Perry County line. It included base repairs, cross slope correction, new shoulders with guardrail, rumble strips and durable pavement striping. A special asphalt surface mixture called Stone Matrix Asphalt (SMA) was used to reduce rutting, improve skid resistance and decrease hydroplaning. Two new entrances, located at Pleasant Valley Road and MacIntosh Creek Road, have also been opened to the public.

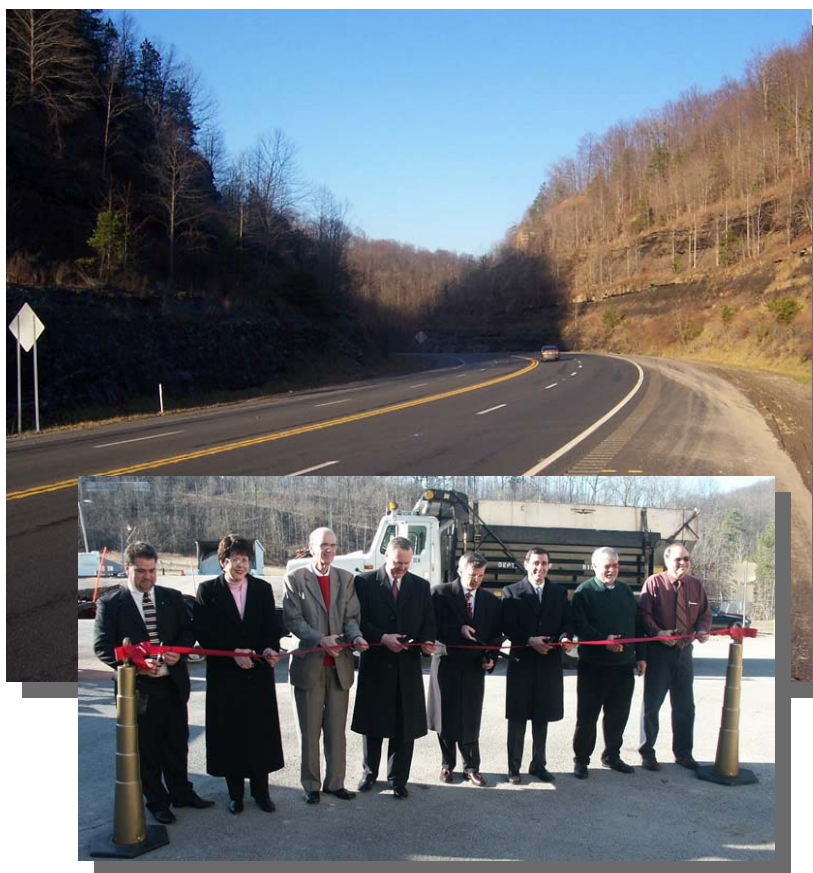
"Roads and infrastructure have always been a key to Kentucky's economic development and economic success," said Governor Ernie Fletcher. "This project – part of the \$750 million in highway contracts awarded in Kentucky in 2005 – is an important part of our continued efforts to move Kentucky forward."

State legislators spoke of the importance of this project to the districts they represent.

"It is important that we make sure our roads and bridges are safe in the commonwealth," said Senator Daniel Mongiardo (D-Hazard). "This rehabilitation project is important for both economic development and the safety of our citizens."

"I am honored to represent the 90th District in the Kentucky General Assembly and the commitment the Legislature, Governor Fletcher and the Transportation Cabinet has for the improvement of the infrastructure in Eastern Kentucky," said Representative Tim Couch (R-Leslie).

"I am very proud of the stewardship Hal Rogers has had in regard to this road," said Representative Brandon Smith (R-Leslie). "His commitment to providing better access to my district has allowed our region to move forward."



L to R: Randall Combs-Co. Commissioner; Rhonda Brashear-Hyden/Leslie Co. Chamber of Commerce; Sec. Nighbert, Tim Couch-State Representative; Gov. Fletcher, Daniel Mongiardo-State Senator; Eugene Stewart-Mayor of Hyden and Greene L. Keith-CDE.

Greene L. Keith, chief district engineer, Highway District 11, stressed the importance of enhancements to this section of the parkway, making it safer for motorists traveling this route.

Community leaders highlighted the importance of the infrastructure to future economic development opportunities.

"I am glad to see that our region is moving forward in improving infrastructure," said Rhonda Brashear, President of the Hyden-Leslie County Chamber of Commerce. "With this road improvement, greater tourism and commerce will be attainable."